

Order

Michigan Supreme Court
Lansing, Michigan

March 23, 2018

Stephen J. Markman,
Chief Justice

157435 (39)

Brian K. Zahra
Bridget M. McCormack
David F. Viviano
Richard H. Bernstein
Kurtis T. Wilder
Elizabeth T. Clement,
Justices

MICHAEL CHARLES WARD,
Plaintiff-Appellant,

v

SC: 157435
COA: 339639

MACOMB CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WARDEN,
EARNEST C. BROOKS CORRECTIONAL
FACILITY WARDEN, DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS, and PAROLE BOARD,
Defendants-Appellees.

On order of the Chief Justice, the motion to waive fees is DENIED because MCL 600.2963 requires that a prisoner pursuing a civil action be liable for filing fees. Ordinarily, MCL 600.2963(8) would preclude appellant from seeking leave to appeal in this Court because of the outstanding fees he owes in other civil case filings. However, applying that statutory section to bar review of appellant's complaint for habeas corpus in the Court of Appeals would violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. *Smith v Bennett*, 365 US 708; 81 S Ct 895; 6 L Ed 2d 39 (1961).

Appellant is not required to pay an initial partial fee. However, for an appeal to be filed, **within 21 days of the date of this order, appellant shall submit a copy of this order and refile the copy of the pleadings returned with this order.** By doing this, appellant becomes responsible to pay the \$375.00 filing fee. Failure to comply with this order shall result in the appeal not being filed in this Court.

If appellant timely refiles the pleadings, monthly payments shall be made to the Department of Corrections in the amount of 50 percent of the deposits made to appellant's account until the payments equal the balance due of \$375.00. This amount shall then be remitted to this Court.

Pursuant to MCL 600.2963(8), appellant shall not file a new civil action or appeal in this Court until the entry fee in this case is paid in full.

The Clerk of the Court shall furnish two copies of this order to appellant and return a copy of appellant's pleadings with this order.



izm

I, Larry S. Royster, Clerk of the Michigan Supreme Court, certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the order entered at the direction of the Court.

March 23, 2018

Clerk